

The Word of God

The Bible is not just a recorded history of Christianity. It is the Word of God. The New Church teaches that the Old and New Testaments, even when describing actual history, contain valuable parables, or metaphors. This inner sense gives deeper insights into God, spiritual growth, and the human condition. The New Church draws its philosophy from the Old Testament, New Testament and the books of Emanuel Swedenborg which describe in detail this deeper level of meaning.

The Second Coming

The New Church teaches that Jesus Christ will not be coming again in His physical body. The book of Revelation is a series of metaphors describing a new spiritual awaking for humankind. The Second Coming is the unfolding of the inner or spiritual sense of the Bible. This deeper meaning shows us the true nature of God, creation, and ourselves. We believe that God, by means of the Writings of Emanuel Swedenborg, gave this deeper understanding to humankind. We experience the Second Coming when God's truth comes alive within us, bringing about spiritual change.

Spiritual Growth

The path is really very simple.

Look to the Lord - Learn what God teaches. Ask Him to show you what changes need to be made in your life. Pray for guidance every day.

Look at yourself - What habits or behaviors are harming your relationship with God, your family members, your friends, and others?

Take responsibility - Acknowledge the things that you do which you see are unhealthy and wrong. Confess them to God and ask for His help to overcome them.

Work on it - Choose one habit, thought pattern, or behavior that you wish to change, and ask God to remove it from your life. Take action yourself, but remember that it is the Lord who gives you the strength to overcome temptations and change.

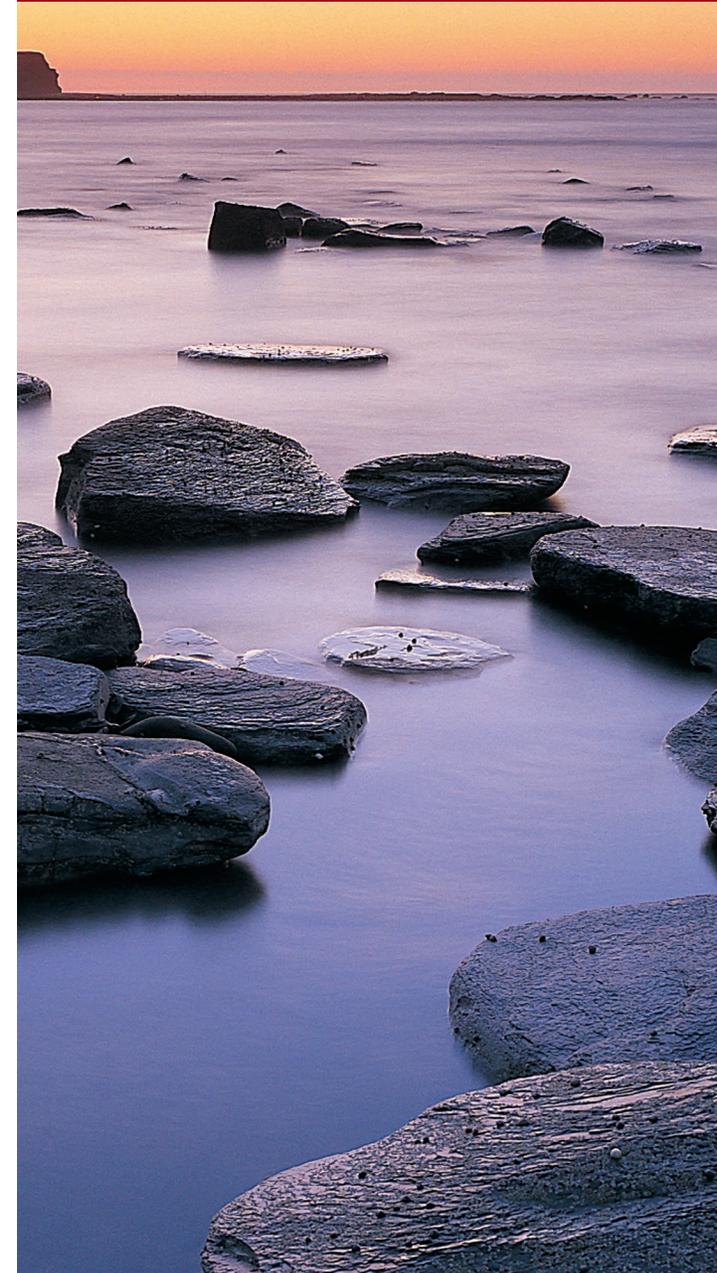
Begin a new life - Through this process we become more compassionate, wiser, and less fearful. We are spiritually reborn.

The New Church

www.newchurch.org



Basic Beliefs



New Church Perspective Series

Some New Church Beliefs

The New Church offers many new ideas about God, faith, life after death, freedom, the Word of God and the Second Coming. Here are a few New Church ideas on these topics.

God is One

There is one loving, personal God, and He is the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the physical manifestation of the One God, called Jehovah in the Old Testament. Each of us has a soul, body and activity (impact on others) in one person. In the same way, God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are one God in one person.

God is Love.

Nothing but good can come from God, because His very nature is love.

God is Life.

God is the source of all life and is constantly present with all life. God's goal in creation is an eternal union, or close loving relationship, between the Creator and the created universe, especially human beings. Our purpose in this world is to build a loving relationship with God. We are meant to be of useful service to other people and to live a good life according to our beliefs.

Faith

Faith is a deep acknowledgement of what is true. But faith without charity is nothing. In much the same way that the lungs breathing and the heart beating together sustain our physical life, faith building and guiding and charity loving and doing sustain our spiritual life.



Freedom

Freedom is an essential component of spiritual life. Our beliefs must come from inquiry, reflection and reasoning, not blind acceptance. Our spiritual life must originate in our hearts and minds, not from outside pressure. God always preserves our freedom to choose what we believe, and what we do.

Heaven, Hell , and Judgement

Heaven is where good people from this world live on as angels after death. In the New Church we teach that people of every faith are saved and welcomed into heaven if they live sincerely according to their religion. All religions have goodness in them.

Heaven and hell are both states of being that we choose. Heaven is not a reward for the good things we have done, or for choosing the right faith. Hell is not a punishment for the bad things we have done or for having the wrong faith. We choose heaven freely by choosing to love God and other people, and by living a life of service. We also choose hell by freely choosing to embrace a selfish, dishonest, or hurtful way of life. What we choose forms the nature of our spirit, leading us to choose the same kind of life after death. We choose what we are comfortable with, and thus we will experience either the joy which comes from helping others in heaven, or the misery of selfish living in hell. So, God does not judge us, we judge ourselves.

When a child dies, he or she always goes to heaven.

